
Introduced by Senator Lara

December 5, 2016

An act to add Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8900) to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to infrastructure.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 30, as introduced, Lara. California-Mexico border: federally funded infrastructure.

Existing law establishes the border between the United States and Mexico, which includes the southern border of California.

This bill would require any federally funded infrastructure project along California's southern border that exceeds a cost of \$1 billion to first be approved by a majority of the voters voting on the issue at a statewide general election. The bill also would make related findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 15 (commencing with Section 8900) is
2 added to Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to read:

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4 CHAPTER 15. FEDERALLY FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE
5 CALIFORNIA-MEXICO BORDER

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7 8900. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the
8 following:

1 (1) California and Mexico share more than 130 miles of an
2 international border. The border region is home to tremendous
3 cultural history and economic commerce between the United States
4 and Mexico.

5 (2) In 2015, the value of California's exports to Mexico was
6 twenty-six billion eight hundred million dollars (\$26,800,000,000),
7 making up 17.4 percent of the state's total exports, and
8 approximately 177,000 California jobs are related to the
9 commercial relationship with Mexico. Commerce, tourism, and
10 foreign direct investment from Mexico support more than 200,000
11 jobs in California.

12 (3) California's border region is also home to numerous
13 threatened and endangered species of plant and animal life,
14 including California's official state amphibian, the California
15 red-legged frog, and the endangered arroyo toad.

16 (4) A recent binational agreement between the United States
17 and Mexico aims to address pollution, including sewage, waste
18 tires, and polluted stormwater, in the Tijuana River watershed.
19 The river flows through both California and Baja California,
20 impacting bird and wildlife habitat and water quality at local
21 beaches.

22 (5) A proposed border wall between California and Mexico
23 would do serious economic, social, and environmental harm to the
24 state.

25 (6) A federally funded infrastructure project along California's
26 southern border that exceeds a cost of one billion dollars
27 (\$1,000,000,000) may cause harm to California's precious
28 environmental resources and cause social and economic impacts.

29 (b) Any federally funded infrastructure project along California's
30 southern border that exceeds a cost of one billion dollars
31 (\$1,000,000,000) shall first be approved by a majority of the voters
32 voting on the issue at a statewide general election.

33 (c) For purposes of this section, separate infrastructure projects
34 that are physically connected or adjacent to each other shall be
35 deemed to constitute a single project.